

Pathway Schools Ltd

Admission Policy

Statement of intent

Pathway School is an Independent Special School for students age 8-18 with ASD, ADHD, anxiety, trauma or any related diagnosis.

Many of the young people who are referred to Pathway School have encountered negative school experiences as a result of their diagnosis.

These can include:

- Poor attendance, disengagement from learning and social isolation at school which may have included bullying.
- School breakdown as a result of their diagnosis
- Elevated levels of anxiety
- A range of mental health issues such as feelings of low mood and low self-esteem
- Problems with independence skills such as eating, sleeping and personal hygiene.

For these reasons, the school strongly believes that referrals and admissions to the school should be a partnership building process with parents, the placing authority, and the school, designed to ensure that the school can meet the needs of the prospective student.

No applicants will be treated less favourably during the admissions process in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Last updated: December 2025.

Date for next review: September 2026.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Directors and the Senior Leadership team are responsible for:

- Overseeing, and determining annually, admissions arrangements that clearly set out how students will be admitted.
- Ensuring that the practices and criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.
- Publishing the admissions arrangements on the school website.
- Clearly communicating any reasons for rejecting the admission of a student, as well as the parent/carer's right to appeal and the appeal process.

Provision

3.1 Pathways School is an Independent School for students with Special Educational Needs.

3.2 As an independent school we only consider students who are referred to us from Local Education Authorities.

Admission Panel

4.1 Pathway School's Admission Panel meet weekly to consider referrals

4.2 The Admission Panel will consider all supporting documents including (where appropriate) EHC plans in order for us to decide if we can meet a student's need. In reaching a decision about whether or not the school can meet the student's needs we consider:

- whether the school would be suitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or

- whether the child/young person's attendance at the school would be incompatible with the efficient education of others.

4.3 If the Admissions Panel decide the school can meet the student's specific educational needs the relevant Local Authority is informed and when appropriate the student and parents/carers will be invited to visit the college.

Offer of Placement

5.1 The referring Authority will be provided with an 'Offer of Placement' letter/email which will detail the funding requirements.

5.2 A student's admission will only be considered if funding from a Local Educational Authority is confirmed.

5.3 If the student and parents/carers agree with the philosophy and bespoke approach of the school, a school place will be offered to the student, if a place is available.

5.4 Once this is accepted and funding agreed, a start date for the student will be set which may include a transition plan.

Equal opportunities

The school's admissions criteria will not exclude individuals with a particular protected characteristic. The admissions criteria will not exclude a greater proportion of pupils with particular protected characteristics.

Appeals

7.1 If parents wish to appeal a decision, this is done via their Local Authority's Appeals Procedure.

Contact

9.1 Local Authorities interested in referring a young person to the school should initially contact the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher at admin@pathwayschools.org.uk

